Emergency Staffing

401.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The facility must operate at all times as a safe and secure environment, regardless of staffing levels. Consequently, contingency plans must be made in advance for any staffing emergency or planned job action, regardless of the length of the staffing deficit.

The purpose of this policy is to establish roles and responsibilities for creating and implementing emergency staffing plans, providing appropriate emergency staffing training to supervisory and management personnel, and identifying an update schedule and distribution list for the plan, as identified by the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

401.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to be prepared to operate a safe and secure facility in the event of a staffing emergency. Staffing emergencies that could negatively affect the good order the facility may include, but are not limited to, an outbreak of infectious disease, a work stoppage or strike by the staff, a natural disaster or other disruption. The Sheriff, Chief Deputy of Corrections or the authorized designee shall be responsible for ensuring that an appropriate emergency staffing plan exists.

401.2.1 EMERGENCY STAFFING

In the event the Chief Deputy of Corrections becomes aware that a staffing emergency exists or may occur, staff members who are present may be ordered to remain at their posts. The Chief Deputy of Corrections may notify the Sheriff. Plans should include measures to achieve minimum staffing for the facility within four hours of a staffing emergency and may include the following operational adjustments:

- The facility may go to a lockdown. Minimum activities, including visiting, exercise and other programs will be suspended only if necessary. Meals, cleaning, medical services, court transportation and attorney visits will continue. Other activities will be assessed by the Chief Deputy of Corrections on a case-by-case basis.
- Supervisory and management personnel may have time-off cancelled or rescheduled for the duration of the staffing emergency.
- Staff from other areas of the office who have custody experience may be used to fill vacancies in the facility.
- Assistance from allied agencies may be requested to help management and supervisors in safely staffing the facility.
- Contracting with surrounding facilities may be necessary if adequate staffing cannot be obtained to safely operate the facility.
- In the event of a health-related staffing emergency, the office Exposure Control Officer and medical staff shall be notified in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Policy.

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401.2.2 LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Employees of this office may not participate in work stoppages or strikes (RCW 41.56.120).

In cases where the Chief Deputy of Corrections becomes aware that a work stoppage is planned or has occurred, legal counsel should be consulted for assistance in preparing the necessary legal action to either prevent the work stoppage or to cause it to cease. Immediate contact with the employees' representatives may also be necessary to prevent or conclude the job action.

401.2.3 TRAINING

The Chief Deputy of Corrections or the authorized designee should be responsible for:

(a) Establishing a distribution list for the staffing plan.

(b) Establishing a periodic review and update of the plan.

(c) Ensuring that all supervisors and managers are periodically trained on the plan.

(d) Ensuring that all supervisors and managers are provided access to the plan and/or a means to access it in the event of an emergency.

(e) Documenting all training.

(f) Maintaining training records for each supervisor and manager and ensuring that those personnel periodically receive appropriate update training on the plan.

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